

VZCZCXRO1460  
OO RUEHSL RUEHSR  
DE RUEHVB #0690 3311044  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 271044Z NOV 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9678  
INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZAGREB 000690

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/01/2019  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [MOPS](#) [AF](#) [HR](#)  
SUBJECT: CROATIA CONSIDERING INCREASE IN ISAF DEPLOYMENT BY  
5 PERCENT

REF: STATE 120807

Classified By: Ambassador James Foley, Reasons 1.4 B/D

¶1. (C) Ambassador Foley conveyed points in reftel in November 26 meeting with Foreign Minister Jandrokovic emphasizing inter alia importance of increased troop contributions by Croatia to ISAF. Jandrokovic replied that the U.S. could count on strong public support from the GOC in the wake of the President's announcement. He also said that Croatia would endorse a unified alliance statement in support of the U.S. plan at the December 3-4 NATO ministerial, where Jandrokovic will represent the GOC.

¶2. (C) Regarding troop contributions, Jandrokovic said the Croatian Defense Council this week had decided to strengthen Croatia's ISAF contingent, which currently consists of 300 soldiers. A 5 percent increase (15 soldiers) had been discussed but was not formally determined. The reason for the hesitation was the GoC's fear of injecting Afghanistan into the ongoing Croatian presidential campaign (where voting will be held on December 27 and January 10). A two-thirds majority would be required in the parliament to approve a troop increase, and the GOC feared this could be jeopardized if presidential candidates decided to make Croatia's presence in Afghanistan an issue.

¶3. (C) Jandrokovic also noted that the Defense Council had authorized negotiations with the UK to implement London's request for a redeployment of Croatian forces in order to provide enhanced security at the Kabul airport.

¶4. (C) Finally, Jandrokovic reported that the Defence Council had approved deployment of POMLTs to Afghanistan, even within its current deployment.

FOLEY